can be used by the processor 112. In case of large software applications 136, processor 112 loads various portions of program modules into RAM 115 as needed.

5   The Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) 117 for the system 100 is a set of basic executable routines that have conventionally helped to transfer information between the computing resources within the system 100. Operating system 135 or other software applications 136 use these low-level service routines. In one embodiment system 100 includes a registry (not shown) that is a system database that holds configuration information for system 100. For example, the Windows® operating system by Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, Washington, maintains the registry in two hidden files, called USER.DAT and

10   SYSTEM.DAT, located on a permanent storage device such as an internal disk.

Various embodiments have been described for using environment-based bookmark media objects to provide up-to-date multimedia previews of favorite destinations. The invention has been described in terms of particular embodiments. Other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

15   What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:
2   storing on a client device a set of references to external destinations in a
3   network environment, each destination having an associated bookmark media object;
4   presenting the bookmark media objects to a user for selection; and
5   accessing the network destination corresponding to the selected bookmark
6   media object.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising storing on the client device a set of
2   references to the media objects.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the network destination comprises
2   retrieving a web page corresponding to the selected media object.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the network destination comprises
2   retrieving a three-dimensional environment corresponding to the selected media
3   object.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein presenting the bookmark media objects comprises retrieving the bookmark media objects from one or more hosts.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein presenting the bookmark media objects comprises displaying at least one thumbnail.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein presenting the bookmark media objects comprises displaying a matrix of bookmark media objects.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein presenting the bookmark media object comprises displaying a stream of video.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the bookmark media objects comprises outputting audible sounds.

10. The method of claim 1 and further including:

verifying a status of each bookmark media object; and

presenting a default bookmark media object when the status indicates the corresponding bookmark media object is not available.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein each bookmark media object represents a current state of the corresponding network destination.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein each bookmark media object represents an entry point into three-dimensional content defined by the web pages.

13. A method comprising:

generating a set of bookmark media object, each bookmark media object corresponding to a network destination within a computing environment;

storing the bookmark media objects on one or more servers within the computing environment; and

updating the bookmark media objects as a function of a state of the computing environment.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein updating the bookmark media object comprises updating the bookmark media object as a function of a current state of the corresponding network destination.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein updating the bookmark media object comprises updating the bookmark media object as a function of the information received from a remote user.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein the set of bookmark media objects are generated by a server within the computing environment, and further wherein updating the bookmark media object comprises updating the bookmark media object as a function of host-determined conditions.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein updating the bookmark media object comprises updating the bookmark media object when content of the network destination is changed.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein generating the bookmark media object includes generating a thumbnail.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein updating the bookmark media object includes generating a video stream.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein updating the bookmark media object includes generating an audio stream.

21. The method of claim 13 further comprising communicating the bookmark media objects to a client device for display to a user.

22. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to cause a programmable processor to:

store on a client device a set of references to external destinations in a network environment, each destination having an associated bookmark media object;

present the bookmark media objects to a user for selection; and

6   access the network destination corresponding to the selected bookmark media

7   object.

1   23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the

2   programmable processor to store on the client device a set of references to the

3   bookmark media objects.

1   24.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the

2   programmable processor to retrieve a web page corresponding to the selected

3   bookmark media object.

1   25.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the

2   programmable processor to retrieve a three-dimensional environment corresponding

3   to the selected bookmark media object.

1   26.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the

2   programmable processor to present the bookmark media objects by displaying at least

3   one thumbnail.

1   27.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the

2   programmable processor to present the bookmark media object by displaying a

3   stream of video.

1   28.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the

2   programmable processor to output audible sounds in response to at least one audio

3   signal

1   29.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the

2   programmable processor to verify a status of each bookmark media object; and

3   present a default bookmark media object when the status indicates the corresponding

4   bookmark media object is not available.

1   30.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein each bookmark media object

2   represents a current state of the corresponding network destination.

1 31. A system comprising:

2 a server configured to store a set of bookmark media objects, wherein each

3 bookmark media object corresponds to a destination within a network environment;

4 a client device communicatively coupled to the server and configured to store

5 references to the network destinations; and

6 a web browser executing in an operating environment provided by the client

7 device, wherein the browser is configured to present the bookmark media objects to a

8 user for selection as a function of the references and to access the network destination

9 corresponding to the selected bookmark media object.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of the bookmark media objects

2 comprises a thumbnail.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of the bookmark media objects

2 comprises an audio stream.

1 34. The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of the bookmark media objects

2 comprises a video stream.

1 35. The system of claim 31, wherein a client device configured to store references to the

2 bookmark media objects on the web server.

1 36. The system of claim 31, wherein the web server is configured to update each

2 bookmark media object as a function of a current state of the corresponding network

3 destination.

1 37. The system of claim 36, wherein the web server is configured to update each

2 bookmark media object as a function of information received from the web browser.

1 38. The system of claim 36, wherein the web server is configured to update each

2 bookmark media object when content of the network destination is changed.